



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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County Board sets process for filling position of late commissioner Steve O'Neil

With one commissioner calling it “one of the toughest votes I’ve ever had to take,” the St. Louis County Board today began the process to fill the Second District Commissioner position by officially declaring the seat vacant. The vacancy occurred with the passing of Steve O’Neil two weeks ago.

The board, which met today in Floodwood, next approved a resolution setting January 14, 2014, as the date for a special election. State statute dictates the special election must occur at least 120 days after a vacancy is declared, and at least 12 weeks prior to the next regular election. The filing period for anyone interested in running for the position will be August 20 to September 3, 2013. If more than two candidates file for the position, a primary election will take place on November 5, 2013. That date was chosen to coincide with the general election with the goal of increasing voter participation.

Meanwhile, the Board also voted to hold a public hearing on Tuesday, August 13, to hear from residents of the Second District on the option of having the Board appoint an interim commissioner to represent them until the special election takes place. That public hearing will take place as part of the Board’s regular meeting, which begins at 9:30 a.m.. The Board meeting and public hearing will take place in the Commissioner’s Board room at the St. Louis County Courthouse in Duluth. The Board was originally scheduled to meet at the Fredenberg Town Hall that day, but voted to move the meeting to Duluth to make it more convenient for Second District residents to attend. The scheduling of the public hearing does not necessarily mean the Board will appoint an interim commissioner.

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